62-109090

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Evans
1 - Mr. Cleveland
1 - Mr. Retherington

April 6, 1964

BY COURIER SERVICE

Honorable J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
The President's Commission
200 Maryland Avenue, N. E.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rankin:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated March 30, 1964, which enclosed copies of correspondence addressed to Congressman Gerald R. Ford by Mr. Francis J. McNamara of the House Committee on Un-American Activities. It is noted that you desired this Bureau to have this information in connection with a full field investigation being conducted concerning Mr. Norman Redlich.

With regard to your request that you be furnished the basic facts and supporting data for the House Committee on Un-American Activities' determination that the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee is a communist front organization, this action was taken by the House Committee on Un-American Activities and this Bureau did not participate in its findings.

However, I can state that, since its inception in October, 1951, the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee has consistently rendered aid and support to the communist movement in the United States. Such aid and support has been in the form of mass rallies, literature, speeches by the organization's officials and legal aid regarding issues in which the Communist Party has been interested. The Emergency Civil Liberties Committee has filed amicus curiae briefs on behalf of the Party and its leaders who were convicted under

SEE NOTE PAGE 2

1 - 100-384660
1 - 62-109090
1 - 140-29939

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
APR 8 1964

Enclosed from automatic downgrading and declassification

XEROX APR 10 1964

58 JUN 22 1964

68 APR 6 COMM-FBI

ORIGINAL FILED IN 62-109090-1176

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 62-109090-1176

RECORDED-INDEXED

CONFIDENTIAL

Honorable J. Lee Rankin

the Smith Act of 1940. In turn, the Communist Party has given aid and support to the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee and its various functions and programs. The Party urges its members to attend and support meetings and affairs of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee. The Party has rendered financial support to the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee by purchasing large amounts of tickets to Emergency Civil Liberties Committee functions. The communist press over the years has publicized the activities of the organization and its affairs. Also, Party members and officials have spoken at various meetings of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee. Various officials of Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, past and present, have been identified in the past as Communist Party members.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

NOTE:

See cover memo Cleveland to Evans, same caption, dated 4/3/64, KVH:tjm.

This communication is classified "Confidential" as it contains information developed through our investigation of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee and the Communist Party, USA. The unauthorized disclosure of that information could be prejudicial to the defense interests of the country.

CONFIDENTIAL